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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 001160

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/27/2009

TAGS: MOPS PREL NATO

SUBJECT: KFOR: IRELAND UNLIKELY TO REMOVE CAVEAT

REF: STATE 162868

Classified By: Pol/Econ Chief Mary Daly per 1.4 (b and d)

¶1. (C)Emboff delivered reftel points on July 29 to Michael Gaffey, Director South East Europe division. Gaffey informed Emboff that the one caveat Ireland placed on its troops prevents the use of lethal force to prevent attacks on KFOR property unless there's an immediate threat to life or serious injury. Gaffey said this caveat was put into place for legal reasons on advice of the Attorney General, and the GOI has no plans to remove it. Gaffey also stressed that though Irish forces cannot move outside of Kosovo, they are able to be transferred among the various sectors within Kosovo.

¶2. (C)In regards to methods of crowd control used by Irish troops, Gaffey said that while troops are currently not allowed the use of less-than-lethal agents (tear gas, rubber bullets, etc), they are currently examining this restriction and, according to Gaffey, it may be lifted in the future.

KENNY